(b) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw such notes from the market; and

(c) what are the plans to circulate fresh notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Government of India is aware that torn, mutilated and dirty notes, particularly of smaller denominations, are in circulation, in some parts of the country, including the State of Tripura.

(b) Government has taken a number of measures to withdraw soiled, torn and mutilated notes from the market. The Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Guwahati, which has the jurisdiction over the Tripura State, has opened special counters for exchanging such notes. The Currency Chest branches/Public Sector Bank branches in Tripura have also been directed to exchange these notes.

(c) Fresh notes of various denominations are supplied to the currency chests in Tripura on a regular basis, as per the demand projected by the Regional Office of the RBI, at Guwahati.

Shortage of small coins in Jaipur

1588. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the acute shortage of small coins for day to day transactions in Jaipur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Government has not received any report about shortage of small coins for day to day transactions in Jaipur.

(b) Does not arise. However, till the end of October, 2001, 183 million pieces of coins have been supplied to the regional office of Reserve Bank of India at Jaipur.

Minister's projection of economic growth

1589. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: